## ORIGINAL



BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMPANY SIQUE 1 2 COMMISSIONERS 2013 NOV 20 P 1: 09 Arizona Corporation Commission 3 BOB STUMP- Chairman DOCKETED GARY PIERCE 4 **BRENDA BURNS BOB BURNS** NOV 2 0 2013 5 SUSAN BITTER SMITH **DOCKETED BY** 6 DOCKET NO. S-20876A-13-0014 In the matter of: 7 JAMES F. LIEBES, CRD #2332174, a single 8 man and 9 LANESBOROUGH FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company, FIFTH 10 Respondents. 11 12 BY THE COMMISSION: 13

## (Vacates Hearing)

On January 28, 2013, the Securities Division ("Division") of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") filed a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing ("Notice") against James F. Liebes and Lanesbrough Financial Group, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company ("LFG") (collectively "Respondents"), in which the Division alleged multiple violations of the Arizona Securities Act ("Act") as an unregistered dealer or salesman in connection with the offer and sale of securities.

The Respondents were duly served with copies of the Notice.

On February 11, 2013, Respondents James F. Liebes and LFG filed a request for hearing in this matter.

On February 28, 2013, by Procedural Order, a pre-hearing conference was scheduled on March 14, 2013.

On March 14, 2013, the parties appeared through counsel at the pre-hearing conference, and requested that a status conference be scheduled in approximately 30 days while the issues raised by the Notice are discussed.

On March 18, 2013, by Procedural Order, a status conference was scheduled on April 23, 2013.

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On April 23, 2013, the Division and Respondents appeared through counsel, and while the parties are attempting to resolve the issues raised in the Notice, the Division requested that a hearing be scheduled.

On April 26, 2013, by Procedural Order, a hearing was scheduled on December 2, 2013.

On May 16, 2013, a Motion to Withdraw was filed by counsel for Respondents James F. Liebes and LFG stating that his clients had failed to fulfill their financial obligations which were owed for legal services despite warnings that counsel would withdraw "if his bills were not made current." In support of his Motion to Withdraw, counsel cited Rule 1.16 of the Arizona Rules of Professional Conduct where the rule is set forth. Counsel served a copy of his Motion to Withdraw upon his clients and certified that his clients had been notified in writing of the status of the case including pending matters related to the proceeding.

On June 6, 2013, by Procedural Order, the Motion to Withdraw was granted and the hearing was scheduled to commence on December 2, 2013, as previously ordered.

On November 15, 2013, the Division filed a pleading which was captioned as "Motion to Consolidate Hearings and Recommendation to Continue December 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing". The Division's pleading stated that while the proceeding was pending, the Division had found evidence that Respondents had allegedly "committed additional ongoing violations" of the Act. As a result, the Division, on November 5, 2013, filed a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist in Docket No. S-20876A-13-0376 ("TC&D"). The Division stated that Respondents were not served with the TC&D until November 14, 2013, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 44-1972 and A.A.C. R14-4-307, Respondents have 20 days to request a hearing and within 30 days of service, file their Answers. The Division stated further that the proceedings are interrelated and should be consolidated; however, Respondents have not yet responded to the TC&D and it is unknown if Respondents will either request a hearing or file an Answer in that proceeding.

Under the circumstances, the hearing in this proceeding should be vacated, but it is premature to consolidate the two proceedings at this time until Respondents either default or request a hearing and file an Answer in the TC&D proceeding.

1 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the hearing scheduled to commence on December 2, 2 2013, is hereby vacated. 3 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Motion to Consolidate shall be held in abevance. 4 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Ex Parte Rule (A.A.C. R14-3-113-Unauthorized 5 Communications) is in effect and shall remain in effect until the Commission's Decision in this 6 matter is final and non-appealable. 7 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all parties must comply with Rules 31 and 38 of the Rules 8 of the Arizona Supreme Court and A.R.S. § 40-243 with respect to the practice of law and admission 9 pro hac vice. 10 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that withdrawal or representation must be made in compliance 11 with A.A.C. R14-3-104(E) and Rule 1.16 of the Rules of Professional Conduct (under Rule 42 of the 12 Rules of the Arizona Supreme Court). Representation before the Commission includes appearances 13 at all hearings and procedural conferences, as well as all Open Meetings for which the matter is 14 scheduled for discussion, unless counsel has previously been granted permission to withdraw by the 15 Administrative Law Judge or the Commission. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Administrative Law Judge may rescind, alter, 16 17 amend, or waive any portion of this Procedural Order either by subsequent Procedural Order or by 18 ruling at hearing. DATED this day of November, 2013 19 20 21 MARCE. STERN 22 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE 23 Copies of the foregoing mailed/delivered day of November, 2013 to: this AO24 Lanesborough Financial Group, LLC James F. Liebes 25 7373 E. Doubletree Ranch Road, Suite 125 6301 E. Vista Drive Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 Scottsdale, AZ 85258 26

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## DOCKET NO. S-20876A-13-0014

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